

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 22-31, 42 and 49-56 are pending.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-7, 22-31, 42 and 49-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 10-116431 to Ikegame in view of U.S.P. 5,555,228 to Izuka.

Before considering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of the independent claims would be helpful. In this regard, independent Claim 1 is directed to an objective lens drive apparatus configured to be used in an optical pickup. A magnetic circuit includes first and second magnets separated from one another by a gap. A coil unit includes a laminate structure including a focus coil, a tracking coil and a tilt coil. The laminate structure is disposed within the gap. An objective lens is connected to the laminate structure such that movement of the laminate structure results in a corresponding movement of the objective lens. The objective lens is disposed outside of the gap in which the laminate structure is disposed.

Claim 22 is directed to, *inter alia*, an objective lens drive apparatus configured to be used in an optical pickup to detect the inclination of an optical disk to adjust the inclination of a lens in accordance with an inclination signal of the optical disk. A focus servo is configured to be executed by supplying currents respectively to a plurality of the focus coils due to a sum of drive forces generated in the plurality of focus coils. An inclination adjustment of the objective lens is configured to be executed by generating a moment around a center of gravity of a moveable part due to a difference between the drive forces.

Claim 27 is directed to, *inter alia*, a tracking servo is configured to be executed by supplying currents respectively to a plurality of tracking coils due to a sum of drive forces generated in the plurality of focus coils.

Claim 42 is directed to, *inter alia*, an objective lens drive apparatus configured to be used in an optical pickup. A lens configured to be adjusted in a focusing direction, a tracking direction and a tilt direction by the magnetic circuit and coils is provided in a lens holder.

The Office Action recognizes that Ikegame fails to disclose that the objective lens is disposed outside of the gap in which the laminate structure is disposed. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that Izuka may be combined with Ikegame to cure the deficiencies of Ikegame. The disclosure of Ikegame teaches away from the feature of providing the objective lens outside the gap in which the laminate structure is disposed. In particular, paragraph [0015] of Ikegame discloses that the nodal point NP of the objective lens 2 and the center of gravity G of moving parts 7 in an x and y direction are in agreement. Thus, Ikegame teaches away from placing the objective lens outside the gap.

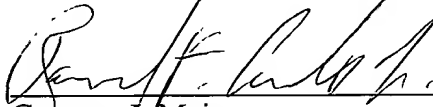
With respect to dependent Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that Ikegame discloses the features of these respective claims. In particular, Ikegame discloses printed coils 23 and 24 which have a three tiered structure. Ikegame discloses two tracking coils 4, one tilt coil 6 and one focal coil 3 forming printed coil 23 or 24.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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